

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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R 231632Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1505

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR,TH,UR

SUBJECT: PRAVDA ON THAILAND

1. SUMMARY. A PRAVDA COMMENTARY (JUN 23) BY REGULAR SOUTHEAST ASIA OBSERVER SHCHEDROV PRAISED THE NEW COURSE OF THAI FOREIGN POLICY, BUT WARNED AGAINST CLOSER TIER WITH PEKING. END SUMMARY.

2. THE COMMENTARY DISCUSSED IN POSITIVE TERMS THE OCTOBER 1973 COUP AND THE ELECTION EARLIER THIS YEAR. IT SPOKE APPROVINGLY OF THAILAND'S EFFORTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH ITS INDOCHINESE NEIGHBORS, AND SHCHEDROV QUOTED FROM A RECENT INTERVIEW (UNDATED) WITH PRIME MINISTER KUKRIT TO THIS EFFECT. HOWEVER, THE ARTICLE STILL IMPLICITLY ENDORSED THE PRG'S LINE ON THE REASON FOR THE DELAY IN NORMALIZING RELATIONS, NAMELY THE RETURN OF SOUTH

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VIETNAMESE REFUGEES AND AIRCRAFT, AND THE WITHDRAWAL OF

ALL U.S. FORCES. THE ARTICLE ALSO SPOKE APPROVINGLY OF BANGKOK'S EFFORTS TO PUT MORE DISTANCE IN ITS RELATIONS WITH WASHINGTON.

3. KUKRIT WAS QUOTED AS ENDORSING THE NEUTRALIZATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIA WITHOUT MILITARY BASES OR BLOCS, AND ASSERTING THAT "PEACE AND SECURITY CAN ONLY BE ESTABLISHED THROUGH THE COLLECTIVE EFFORTS OF ALL COUNTRIES OF THE REGION." CONCERNING THAI-SOVIET RELATIONS, KUKRIT REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THERE WERE NO ISSUES OF DISPUTE AND HE LOOKED TOWARD CLOSER TIES WITH MOSCOW.

4. THE ONLY SOUR NOTE IN THE COMMENTARY CONCERNED THAILAND'S EFFORT TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH THE PRC. THIS COURSE, SAID PRAVDA, HOLDS DANGERS. PEKING SEEKS TO INTERFERE IN THAI INTERNAL AFFAIRS, SAID PRAVDA, BY ASSERTING AUTHORITY OVER 400,000 "CHINESE" IN THAILAND WHO HAVE A MAJOR ROLE IN THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY.

5. COMMENT: THE COMMENTARY GENERALLY FOLLOWS THE POSITIVE LINE ON THAILAND WHICH HAS PREVAILED SINCE OCTOBER 1973. THE NEW ELEMENT IS THE WARNING ABOUT THE CHINESE, WHICH IS SO BROAD AS TO IMPLY THAT THAILAND SHOULD BE WARY OF ALL ETHNIC CHINESE IN THAILAND WHO ARE ENGAGED IN COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY.
STOESSEL

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